



# DAILY BULLETIN

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## EARLY TRANSFER OF IRAQI SOVEREIGNTY DRIVEN BY READINESS, SECURITY

U.S. official says Iraqi prime minister determined timing; Bush pleased

By Rebecca Ford Mitchell  
Washington File Staff Writer

Istanbul, Turkey -- The early turnover of Iraqi sovereignty on June 28 -- two days ahead of schedule -- came at the request of Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who believed it would strengthen his hand against the terrorists and insurgents who are inflicting havoc on his country, a Bush administration official said.

Briefing on background June 28 at the NATO Summit, the spokesman said that Allawi had decided late Sunday afternoon that the new government was ready to take control and had so informed Ambassador Paul Bremer, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) administrator, who then told President Bush. "The president was pleased with the news," the official said. "Our goal was to move as quickly as possible to move responsibility for day-to-day affairs to the Iraqi people ... Today was the right day to do it."

Allawi's determination to fight his country's enemies and his eagerness to have Iraqis regain control over their government propelled him to move "at warp speed," the official said. The idea of an early transfer had been secretly under discussion for over a week, the official said, and the timing -- based on the two driving factors of the readiness of the interim government and

the effect on the security environment -- was decided by Allawi.

“The prime minister is sending a powerful signal to the Iraqi people and to the terrorists,” the official said. “Iraq is calling the shots.”

The spokesman pointed to the horrific acts in recent days -- “the bombings, killings and beheadings of innocent people” -- and said no action of the enemy will shake the resolve of the Iraqi government or those assisting them to succeed in bringing security to the Iraqi people. The Iraqi citizens must be confident of that, he said, because they are going to be among the critical foot soldiers in the battle against insurgents. “They are the ones who know what is happening at the end of their street, what is happening in their business, what is happening in the dark alleys behind their houses, or in their neighborhoods,” he said.

The multinational forces will remain in Iraq to support Allawi in defending Iraq, but at the same time Iraqi security forces and intelligence services are getting better each day, he said. General Sanchez was aware of and fully supportive of the decision, as the Iraqi government and the multinational force are already working well together, he added.

Other members of the coalition in Iraq were informed of the decision before this morning’s official announcement, the spokesman said, noting that the president expressed his appreciation to Bremer for his outstanding work and to members of the CPA for their sacrifices on behalf of the Iraqi people. Bremer, whose job is now officially done, has already left the country; Ambassador John Negroponte, who will lead the U.S. embassy in Baghdad, will be arriving in the next few days to present his credentials to the new Iraqi government, according to the official.

The spokesman said there was no expectation the early handover would have any effect on the discussion now under way at the NATO Summit in Istanbul. Training for Iraq security forces “was requested coming into NATO, and that is what it appears will come out of NATO, regardless of the day that sovereignty was handed over,” he said.

President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, both at the summit, also are scheduled to make statements on Iraq.

## U.S. CAMPAIGN PROTECTS THOUSANDS OF NEWBORNS FROM HIV INFECTION

Preventing mother-to-child transmission is a key goal of AIDS relief plan

The global AIDS coordinator in the U.S. State Department reports that 378,000 HIV-positive pregnant women have received treatment to prevent the transmission of the HIV virus to their newborns.

AIDS Ambassador Randall Tobias provided a status report on the Initiative to Prevent Mother-to-Child Transmission June 28. The \$500 million effort to prevent the infection of newborns has been under way 18 months and is a key component of the president’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

From that population of women, the report says an estimated 4,800 children would have been infected if the prevention program were not in place in the 15 countries in Africa the Caribbean and Southeast Asia that are the focus of the emergency plan. Pregnant women in more than 20 Caribbean island nations are receiving prevention services also.

The annual report of the Initiative to Prevent Mother-to-Child Transmission is available at <http://www.state.gov/s/gac/rl/or/33896.htm#intro>

Following is the text of the media note issued on the report:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
June 28, 2004

President’s Plan to Prevent Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV Shows Early Progress

U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Ambassador Randall L. Tobias is pleased to note the early success achieved in preventing HIV-infected mothers from passing the disease to their babies during birth, a key component of the President George W. Bush’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Under that plan, 14,700 health workers have been trained and 900 different health care sites have established capacity for preventing infant infection in severely affected countries. The Initiative to Prevent Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) is a \$500 million effort focused on 15 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and

Southeast Asia, and one regional program that supports over 20 Caribbean island nations.

Even during the initial 18-month start-up period, PMTCT services were delivered to 378,000 women. It is estimated that 4,800 children who would have been born with HIV were born HIV-free as a result of the President's initiative. The initiative also provided 34,000 women with short-course antiretroviral (ARV) preventive therapy. These early results are an encouraging indication that the program will succeed in achieving the President's goals of providing PMTCT services to one million women and prophylactic ARV treatment to 80 percent of HIV-positive women who deliver children in the 15 focus nations and the regional program. Short course, preventive ARV drug treatment of a pregnant mother and child can reduce the likelihood of transmission by almost 50 percent.

"As part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, we are pursuing the ambitious goal to reduce mother-to-child transmission by 40 percent in these severely affected areas over 5 years. Training 14,700 maternal and child health workers, and building capacity at over 900 health care sites, are heartening indications that we can meet that goal," said Ambassador Tobias. "The President is committed to turning the tide against this pandemic and that can only happen with dramatic progress in reducing transmission of HIV from mothers to children. The good news is that we are doing just that."

The President's \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief has a goal of ARV treatment for 2 million HIV-infected persons in 15 focus countries, including pregnant women and their families. This longer-term ARV treatment of a mother nearly doubles the effectiveness of short course ARV prophylaxis to prevent infection of her baby.

#### U.S., LIBYA RENEW DIRECT DIPLOMATIC TIES

Burns leads delegation to Libya for wide-ranging discussions

The United States and Libya have formally renewed direct diplomatic ties with the June 28 opening of a U.S. Liaison Office in Tripoli. The move ends a 24-year hiatus in official ties between the two countries.

The opening of the new office occurred during the visit to Libya by Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William Burns and a delegation of U.S. officials. According to a June 28 State Department press statement, the officials discussed a wide array of pending issues including Libya's commitment to comply with United Nations resolutions concerning the 1988 bombing of Pan Am 103, Libya's progress in eliminating weapons of mass destruction, and its commitment to support the war on terrorism.

In the statement, U.S. officials welcomed Libya's efforts to help address the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan.

The officials also encouraged the Libyan government to abide by human rights treaties and welcomed its statements regarding internal reforms. Burns affirmed the U.S. commitment to support economic and political reforms in any way it can.

Following is the text of the State Department press statement:

Tripoli, Libya  
June 27-28, 2004

Visit of Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William Burns to Tripoli, Libya

Assistant Secretary of State William Burns met on June 28 in Tripoli with Libyan officials, continuing a dialogue on the future of U.S.--Libyan relations begun on February 6. He was joined by Counterterrorism Coordinator Ambassador Cofer Black and other U.S. specialists. In meetings with Colonel Qadhafi and other Libyan officials, the U.S. delegation held wide-ranging discussions on a broad agenda, reflecting the depth of engagement between the United States and Libya on issues of mutual concern. The U.S. delegation expressed appreciation for Libya's efforts to address the tragic humanitarian situation in Darfur, Sudan, and the two sides agreed to continue their cooperation on this critical issue.

During the meetings, the U.S. delegation recalled the importance of Libya's decision to fulfill the U.N. resolutions on Pan Am 103 and welcomed Libya's assurance that it stood by those commitments. In this context, the delegation reiterated the President's commitment to reciprocate in good faith as Libya implements its commitment to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction programs and MTCR-class missiles, and to assist Libya

and relevant international institutions, as requested, in completing these efforts. The U.S. delegation praised Libya's record of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and underscored that Libya was setting a standard for others to follow.

The two sides held detailed discussions on Libya's commitment to support the global war on terrorism, to repudiate the use of violence for political purposes, and to implement its pledge to cease all support for terrorism. These discussions provided an opportunity to address recent public allegations regarding Libya and Saudi Arabia. The U.S. team also encouraged Libyan efforts to resolve the pending terrorism cases in U.S. courts.

The U.S. delegation expressed condolences for the suffering of the HIV/AIDS-infected children and their family members in Benghazi, and reiterated the American offer of medical assistance. At the same time, it called upon Libya to meet the deep and clearly expressed concerns of the international community about the Bulgarian medics.

The U.S. team urged Libya to abide by its commitments under international human rights treaties and covenants, noted recent positive statements by Libya's leadership on internal reform, and encouraged rapid implementation. In the context of discussing individual cases of concern, Assistant Secretary Burns noted the President's commitment that "should Libya pursue internal reform, America will be ready to help its people build a more free and prosperous country."

The U.S. and Libyan delegations also reviewed steps taken by the U.S. to facilitate trade and investment; to continue a dialogue on human rights and economic and political modernization; to facilitate Libya's further integration into the global economy; to increase opportunities for educational travel to the United States; and to broaden people-to-people contacts between the United States and Libya.

Finally, Assistant Secretary Burns formally inaugurated the new U.S. Liaison Office in Tripoli and resumption of direct diplomatic ties. This occurs 24 years after the withdrawal of American personnel and the closure of the U.S. Embassy. He thanked the Government of Belgium for its excellent assistance during that period, and noted that Libya would be taking its own steps to establish diplomatic representation in the U.S. Both sides confirmed that these actions would assist the step-by-step process of

strengthening relations as Libya fulfills each of its commitments and the U.S. continues to respond in kind.

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## WEST AFRICA AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS USAID EFFORTS

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Programs include promoting beans, helping to harmonize health regulations

By Kathryn McConnell  
Washington File Staff Writer

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso -- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is working to help West African countries develop their agriculture sectors through a range of programs that support scientific research, public education, regional health and food safety standards and market-related information exchanges for farmers.

One example is the Beans for Health Alliance, one of 68 public-private partnerships USAID currently supports through its Global Development Alliance, according to a fact sheet released during the June 21-23 regional agricultural science and technology ministerial conference in Ouagadougou.

The bean alliance funds research and raises public awareness of the health benefits of beans and other pulses, such as cowpeas and chickpeas, which are inexpensive sources of such essential nutrients as protein, vitamins, minerals and bioactive compounds as folates, the fact sheet said.

International health organizations recognize that good nutrition can slow the progression of HIV and should be a key part of health intervention strategies, another USAID fact sheet said. Many nutrients are considered essential to keeping the immune system functioning at full capacity.

The alliance hopes to show public health officials worldwide that nutritional interventions can rebuild lean tissue in HIV-positive individuals and allow children with HIV to grow normally, the fact sheet said.

USAID's West Africa Regional Program (WARP) is working with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Economic Community of West

African States (ECOWAS) to facilitate the harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations in West Africa, according to a third fact sheet distributed at the conference. Countries seeking market access for their agricultural products in the international trading system must comply with World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS standards.

WARP also is working to leverage contributions from other donors and stakeholders to strengthen market information networks and regional trade organizations, and to facilitate regional business contacts in select agricultural sectors. The goals of the project are to deepen regional economic integration in West Africa through closer economic ties and to improve food security, USAID said.

In 2003, WARP opened a West Africa Global Competitiveness Hub (WATH) to build the capacity of producers of such products as cashews, shea butter and hand-loomed textiles to meet U.S. consumer requirements so that African farmers could expand their export markets. WATH also helps governments and private companies take advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the fact sheet said.

USAID's West Africa Regional Program is promoting economic development in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Togo.

The agricultural ministerial conference, which drew ministers from 13 West African countries, was sponsored by the United States and the government of Burkina Faso with advisory support from WAMU, ECOWAS and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

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